

Commissioner's 2022 Space to Dream Exhibition opens at the Australian Space Discovery Centre

The Commissioner's **2022 Space to Dream Exhibition** opens today at the **Australian Space Discovery Centre** at Lot Fourteen. The exhibition features 20 designs chosen from more than 92 entries received from 32 schools across the State with an estimated 12,000 South Australian students who completed the Space to Dream Challenge this year.

Now in its third year, the Commissioner's **Space to Dream Challenge** supports students to learn design thinking skills and apply them to the design of a toy or gadget for someone their age who is 'moving to Mars'.

Caley in Year 4 at Bellevue Heights Primary School has taken out the grand prize this year winning a 3D Printer for their school donated by Challenge Partners **Makers Empire**. Caley's **Robot Pet** was selected by the Commissioner as the **highest ranked design for 2022** for its caring nature. "Designed to comfort people who like pets, it gives them a way to communicate with people back on Earth. It can also heat itself to warm people up".

Other gadgets and toys featured in the exhibition include:

- *The Jokemeter 2000* – that "tells you jokes when you're sad or scared, as well as if there's something dangerous coming."
- *The Incredible Mogo Stick* – "a pogo stick for space with a wire that latches onto a rock so you can jump as high as you want and don't float away".
- *Skatercat* – a robotic cat with a camera in its belly and a fridge in the back. "It's shaped like a cat because cats are very curious and love to explore. It makes a great travelling companion with a space in his head to keep stuff and an outer squish mallow layer that's soft and squishy for hugs when you get anxious".

The Commissioner's **Space to Dream Challenge** was devised to inspire the next generation of South Australian space entrepreneurs and innovators. By exhibiting the top-rated **Space to Dream** designs at the **Australian Space Discovery Centre** children can more easily make the connection between their interests and skills, and how these might lead to a career within the Space industry.

The top-rated designs will be on display in the **Endeavour Room** at the **Australian Space Discovery Centre**, McEwin Building at Lot Fourteen from today (1 December) **through to Friday 20 January 2023**.

See below for full details...

Travelling Exhibition: In 2023, the Commissioner's **Space to Dream Exhibition** will tour to 18 metropolitan and regional centres and libraries across Adelaide, as well as to community venues in Mount Gambier, Port Broughton, Hawker, Peterborough, Whyalla, Barmera, KI and Murray Bridge, to name a few.

Details of the 2023 Space to Dream Travelling Exhibition can be viewed here:

<https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au/exhibition/>

Quotes attributable to Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People:

Every year I'm excited to see what students come up with. They always surprise me which makes it difficult to select which entries will be featured in the annual exhibition and awarded prizes. I found it interesting this year that there was such a strong focus on designs providing toys or gadgets that cared for children rather than those of previous years which did practical things, or which entertained. All children and young people in SA should be able to engage with the digital world and access its benefits. That's why I made my Challenge suitable for every school student and adaptable to any age and digital literacy level.

Quote attributable to Mandi Dimitriades, Director of Learning, Makers Empire

Every year I am amazed to see the innovative and thoughtful ideas that young people come up with. I am once again reminded of what can happen when you give young people the tools and opportunities - they do amazing things. Makers Empire is proud of our ongoing partnership with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the opportunities it brings for young people to develop important design thinking skills, empathy for others, and excitement about the space industry and future possibilities.

Background

The Commissioner's Digital Challenge is the result of Commissioner Connolly's commitment to ensuring South Australian children and young people are given an inclusive digital opportunity. The free, recurring, year-round Challenge which runs from January to September each year, has been designed to ensure core ideas integral to digital empowerment are taught in fun and interactive ways, supporting students, teachers, schools, libraries, and community groups to participate with ease. It is made available FREE via a dedicated website (www.commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au) where hundreds of digital activities curated with input from some of Australia's (and the world's) leading digital industry players can be accessed with ease.

Space to Dream is the second in a series of digital challenges designed to emphasise the importance of digital literacy for today's young people because **"digital skills are life skills; crucial to future jobs, social inclusion, and to building a more equitable world."**

The other Challenges in the series are *Learn to Speak Robot* (a Computational Thinking challenge) and *Zoom Out* (a Systems Thinking Challenge).

For full details of SA schools who received 2022 Challenge rewards visit the following links:

Space to Dream Winners 2022:

<https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au/design-thinking/schools/schools-winners/>

Learn to Speak Robot and Zoom Out Winners 2022:

<https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au/digital-thinking/schools/schools-winners/>

The Commissioner's Digital Challenge re-opens on Day 1 of Term 1 in 2023.

Schools can pre-register today via this link:

<https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au/registration/>

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